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State House, Room 238

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VALLEE FILES BILL TO EXPAND CASH DISCOUNTS FOR GAS

BOSTON, Mass. – State Representative James E. Vallee (D-Franklin) today announced his co-sponsorship of a bill that could help drivers feel some relief when they pay cash at the pump. The bill, filed by Reps. Vallee and L’Italien (D-Andover), would allow customers to see prices per gallon drop 6 or 7 cents when they choose to pay without using a credit card.

Presently, brand-name gasoline franchises ban their distributors from offering discounts. With consumers changing their driving habits to accommodate tightening purse strings, the bill would attempt to foster competition between affiliates of brand-name oil companies and the independent gas stations that already offer discounts.

“With the cost of living rising in the Commonwealth, our bill could significantly help both consumers and small business owners pull through the crunch,” Vallee said. “It’s a win-win.”

The bill would expand the number of service stations that offer a discount to drivers paying by cash, check, or debit card. Gas station owners would also save the 2 to 3% credit card fee per gallon of gasoline sold.

Time may be dwindling, though, as the legislature’s formal session ends on July 31. Both Vallee and L’Italien expressed confidence in the bill, which has rapidly gained support since being filed on Monday.

The legislation is similar to a measure that was recently adopted in Connecticut.

For more information, contact the State House office of Representative Vallee at Rep.JamesVallee@hou.state.ma.us.

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